APPENDIX.

[Vide answer to Starred Question No. 75 asked by Vidwan T. Muthukannappan at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 23rd February 1961, page 388 supra.]

[SUBJECT.—*Law and Order—Ramanathapuram district—Katcha Theevu—Threatening of fishermen from Katcha Theevu by Ceylon Police.*]

In the second week of March 1960, five fishing boats set out into the sea from Verkkot in Ramanathapuram district to fish off Katcha Theevu. Each boat carried its owner and a few fishermen. While the fishermen were repairing their nets, a launch carrying a few Ceylon Police officials appeared at Katcha Theevu. The Police officials directed the fishermen to take their boats near the launch. As the fishermen were just then laying their nets, there was some delay in complying with the direction. The Ceylon Police fired two shots in the air. Thereupon, the fishermen took their boats near the launch. The Ceylon Police warned them to return to their places within 3 p.m. of the following day. The fishermen asked that they may be allowed two days for returning to their villages. Their request was rejected. The fishermen returned to their villages immediately.

A couple of weeks later, three out of the five fishing boats referred to above went to Katcha Theevu carrying the same fishermen and the respective boat-owners. This time, the fishermen took with them certificates declaring them to be *bona fide* fishermen, from the village headman and the President, Rameswaram Fishermen Co-operative Society. On this occasion also, a Ceylon Police party went there. The Policemen got into one of the boats and beat one of the fishermen. After that the boat was tied to the launch and towed towards Ceylon. Meanwhile, the fishermen showed them their certificates. The Ceylon Police then released the boat and the fishermen.